

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 954

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to recognize a multi-state commemoration of the
fifty-fifth anniversary of the Selma-to-
Montgomery March.

WHEREAS, since the founding of America, there has been a history of slow but steady
progress in granting all Americans the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, all white men did not receive the right to vote until 1856, after North
Carolina removed the requirement of property ownership; and

WHEREAS, the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was passed in
1870, stating that federal and state governments could not deny the right to vote based on race;
and

WHEREAS, the Nineteenth Amendment was passed in 1920, guaranteeing women the
right to vote; and

WHEREAS, legal barriers were removed in 1924 by passage of the Indian Citizenship
Act that granted Native Americans the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was intended to expand the voting rights of
African Americans and remove literacy tests, intimidation, taxes, and other discriminatory
restrictions used to deny people the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the Twenty-sixth Amendment was passed in 1971, granting eighteen-year-
olds the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was reauthorized, with overwhelming
bipartisan support, in 1970 under President Richard Nixon, in 1975 under President Gerald
Ford, in 1982 under President Ronald Reagan, and in 2006 under President George W. Bush;
and

WHEREAS, promoting broad participation of the American public in elections is good for democracy and will encourage good citizenship and that the voice of the people is heard; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize the importance of voting and join with Tennessee's government officials at the State and local level, nonprofit organizations, faith communities, and other interested parties as they collectively organize an event to observe, salute, and commemorate passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 on March 1, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. CST, which is the exact time of the commencement of the reenactment of the voting rights advocates crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.